

that says we will no longer be silent when regimes terrorize or allow terror against its religious believers.

The bill does a number of things:

It focuses on persecution—abduction, enslavement, imprisonment, killing, forced mass resettlement, rape, or torture.

It establishes an Office in the White House to monitor religious persecution and requires the Director to report to Congress on whether a country has category 1 persecution—government involvement—or category 2 persecution—no government involvement but lack of government action to stem persecution. We ask that the Director look at persecution of Tibetans, Bahai's, and Christians—the three groups which were the focus of resolutions—but encourage the Director to examine persecution of vulnerable communities whenever it occurs.

It shuts off aid to category 1 and 2 countries and requires U.S. executive directors to vote against multilateral development banks against loans to persecuting countries.

It improves refugee and asylum procedures to ensure those seeking refuge from persecution are not turned away from a country which has historically welcomes religious victims.

Finally, and I want to emphasize this point, the bill imposes immediate and tough sanctions on the Government of Sudan until it ceases all religious persecution. The sanctions prescribed in this bill are virtually identical to those imposed on South Africa in the anti-apartheid act of the 1980's such as ban on flights, ban on investment, and a ban on imports. Though its difficult to quantify human suffering, after having traveled to Sudan three times since 1989, I can say with some experience that the persecution occurring there is some of the worst I've ever seen. Slavery, forcible conversion, the use of food as a weapon, torture, kidnapping of children. It's time the United States singled this country out as an example of one of the most egregious violators of human rights in the world.

This bill is not intended as a panacea. The international community, the President, and the Congress must remain vigilant and speak out on individual cases.

This bill, is intended to increase the priority given to this issue in our foreign policy and put the persecutors on alert. The United States will no longer acquiesce.

Jackson-Vanik was the movement that crystallized concern in the 1980's on behalf of those suffering persecution in the Soviet Union. I am hoping that this bill will be its counterpart for the 1990's.

It's an important and vital first step. We have 25 original bipartisan cosponsors in the House and we expect this bill to pass and to result in real action.

I want to thank all those who worked to put this bill together including Anne Huiskes on my staff; Bill Morley and Gretchen Birkle on Senator SPECTER's staff; and Grover Joseph Rees and Dorothy Taft on Representative CHRIS SMITH's staff. I also want to thank those outside groups who have worked on this bill including Michael Horowitz with the Hudson Institute, Heidi Stirrup, Christian Coalition; Will Dodson, Southern Baptist Convention; Will Nance, Prison Fellowship; Melissa McClard, Family Research Council; Nina Shea, Puebla Program; Father Keith Roderick; Dr. Whalid Phares; Ann Buwalda, Just Law, David Adams, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod;

and the many others who have helped us craft this bill. Their efforts and input are greatly appreciated.

HONORING THE WHITTIER HOST LIONS CLUB IN RECOGNITION OF 75 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND INVALUABLE SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the men and women of the Whittier Host Lions Club on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. On Saturday, May 31, 1997, the Whittier Host Lions Club will have a special ceremony in honor of this momentous occasion.

Sponsored by the Santa Ana Lions Club, the Whittier Host Lions Club was chartered on May 27, 1922. It is part of the International Association of Lions Clubs, known throughout the world for its humanitarian service, fellowship, and organizational leadership. The primary focus of this organization is service to the local community and to those in need throughout the world. Each year, Lions Clubs provide goods and services to thousands of people around the globe.

The Lions Club International began in June 1917, founded by a Chicago insurance agent, Melvin Jones. He presented to a group of small business clubs his proposal of consolidating their small clubs into a strong influential club. Its goal would be to serve the community and humanity. At the first annual convention in October 1917, 23 clubs participated. Today, there are more than 40,000 Lions Clubs.

The Whittier Host Lions Club has adhered to the international motto of service with distinction. Its members have provided countless hours of service to the community. Through the efforts of its members, the Whittier Host Lions Clubs has provided eyeglasses for area schoolchildren and invaluable support to the YMCA, Camp Arbolado, and Whittier Intercommunity Blind Center. It has organized a recycling center, contributing \$20,000 annually to civic projects and, since 1962, an Arabian Horse Show, contributing \$30,000 to the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the men and women of the Whittier Host Lions Club on the occasion of its 75th anniversary and in recognition of its outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

CALLING FOR A U.S. INITIATIVE SEEKING A JUST AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION ON CYPRUS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Cyprus problem has been a matter of concern to the United States Congress now in excess of 22 years. It is a situation that cries out for just redress and an end to the occupation of Cyprus

by foreign troops. Although the world has dramatically changed for the better during this decade, Cyprus remains as a pressing international problem. Indeed Cyprus has almost become a codeword for intractability in the realm of diplomacy.

I have been encouraged, nevertheless, by recent statements from high level officials of the Clinton administration, including the President himself, that indicate that there may be new willingness on the part of our Government to exert its leadership in promoting a solution to the Cyprus problem. I strongly believe that our Government should invest some of our prestige in such an effort, because Americans have always supported justice, and because we have significant interests that can be affected by instability in Cyprus.

Over the past year there have been a number of events and incidents that have increased tensions in Cyprus and in the eastern Mediterranean region. There is a disturbing trend of increased militarization of the island, already one of the most highly militarized parts of the globe. There are, however, also positive developments that could act to catalyze a peaceful and just solution. One of these is the pending negotiation on Cyprus' accession to the European Union that may begin by the end of the year. There has been increased diplomatic activity in Europe and in the U.N. to bring the two sides together.

The resolution I introduced last week points out the interests and developments regarding the Cyprus situation and urges the President to keep his pledge to give increased attention to Cyprus. I am pleased to be joined by a group of distinguished cosponsors including Mr. HAMILTON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PORTER, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. MALONEY, that have shared an interest in Cyprus and the concern over what may arise from a continued stalemate on the island. It is our hope that this resolution will help spur the resolve of the Clinton administration to indeed make 1997 the Year of Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, I request that a full text of House Concurrent Resolution 81 be inserted at this point in the RECORD.

H. CON. RES. 81

Whereas the Republic of Cyprus has been divided and occupied by foreign forces since 1974 in violation of United Nations resolutions;

Whereas the international community, the Congress, and United States administrations have called for an end to the status quo on Cyprus, considering that it perpetuates an unacceptable violation of international law and fundamental human rights affecting all the people of Cyprus, and undermines significant United States interests in the Eastern Mediterranean region;

Whereas the international community and the United States Government have repeatedly called for the speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from the territory of Cyprus;

Whereas there are internationally acceptable means to resolve the situation in Cyprus, including the demilitarization of Cyprus and the establishment of a multinational force to ensure the security of both communities in Cyprus;

Whereas the House of Representatives has endorsed the objective of the total demilitarization of Cyprus;

Whereas during the past year tensions on Cyprus have dramatically increased, with violent incidents occurring along cease fire lines at a level not reached since 1974;

Whereas recent events in Cyprus have heightened the potential for armed conflict